(b) and (c) During the Second ASEAN India Summit meeting on 8th October, 2003 in Bali, Indonesia, the ASEAN leaders welcomed various initiatives proposed by India in the area of agriculture, bio-technology, HRD and ago-processing. ASEAN leaders also welcomed India's accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC). Both sides also adopted the Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism. A Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between ASEAN and India was signed which would strengthen and enhance economic, trade & investment cooperation between the two sides.

Export of Imported Tea

1251. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tea imports in 2001-02 have been regarded as cheap and re-exported, which has affected India's quality image and are showing a downward trend;

(b) whether the Tea Board has taken this matter with the Directorate General of Foreign Trade to effect necessary procedural amendments towards incorporating multi-country origin declaration for products going out as blends of Indian and imported tea; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) No Sir. Import of tea is allowed for re-export generally after some value addition blended with indigenous tea. This increases the price competitiveness of Indian tea in the export market and also helps in catering to the consumer preferences for specific blends. The reasons for decline in exports of Indian tea are mainly the increasing competition being faced from other tea producing countries like Sri Lanka, China and Vietnam, tariff and non-tariff barriers imposed by some countries, lower offtake by Russia due to change in consumer preferences etc.

(b) and (c) In order to ensure that low quality products, including tea, imported from other countries are not blended with Indian products for re-exports, thereby affecting the quality image of Indian products,

Government has issued orders making it mandatory for Export Oriented Units (EOUs) and Units in Special Economic Zones to declare the multi-country origin of the product on the packets.

Indian fishery export

1252. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any studies have been conducted on the impact of new import policy of USA (anti dumping act) on Indian fishery export;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the steps taken to project the export sector;

(c) the fishery export during the last three years, State-wise, category-wise and year-wise;

(d) whether any steps would be taken to protect the prawn export industry of Kerala from the adverse impact of the import policy of USA; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Anti-dumping legislation has been in existence in almost all countries, including the USA and India. Anti-dumping duties can be imposed by a country against imports based solely on the price aspect. It is reported that the Southern Shrimp Alliance (SSA) of USA may file an Anti-dumping action against selected shrimp exporting countries, including India, in the USA. However, once the petition is filed, there will be preliminary hearing on the issue. Depending upon the final verdict of the case, duties could be levied. The Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI) has hired a legal firm in the USA to defend Indian shrimp exporters. The SEAI has also taken steps to conduct necessry data collection and preparation of brief to counter the case.

(c) The State-wise figures of marine products exports are not maintained. However, the major country-wise and major variety-wise export of marine products during the last three year, as per inofrmation available, are as follows: